

What Is French's German Shepherd Guardian/Foster/Adoption Program?

We are a small Reputable Hobby Breeder in Central Iowa with a breeding program for sound, appealing, healthy German Shepherd dogs with show and working abilities. Our goal is to breed intelligent, obedient confident, dogs with great temperaments that are capable of working performance and conformation. Before our planned breedings, we require both parents to be titled and pass minimum Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Health Checks. Should a dog not pass health checks, the dog is not bred. We continually try to improve our Lines and better and the Breed.

Our German Shepherd Guardian/Foster/Adoption Program is a way for individuals and families to obtain a high-quality purebred German Shepherd puppy or dog without paying the full purchase or appraisal worth. Many individuals or families in their budget priorities simply cannot justify the full purchase price of a quality, well-bred purebred dog. Instead, buyers will attempt to purchase a cheaper purebred German Shepherd from breeders who are not as selective in their breeding or as conscientious as French's German Shepherds and will often purchase from a "Puppy Mill" to save money. We understand this logic and reasoning.

Growing up as a child, our family lived an austere life. We had pet dogs, but I could only remember they were mixed breed mutts... Then something wonderful happened to our family. My father knew someone who had possession of 2 Champion purebred Poodles they were trying to place due to their owner's death. As a child growing up, our family's priorities would never justify purchasing quality purebred dogs as those, but this person was just looking for a good home for them. Our family received these quality purebred dogs for free. We had never owned quality purebreds before, nor did we ever experience living with an intelligent breed. It was a childhood experience I never forgot, and since then I have always preferred purebred dogs that are intelligent breeds.

French's German Shepherds is not a kennel, nor do we normally place our dogs in kennels. We prefer to place our dogs with individuals and families that will give the dogs the love and attention they deserve. We take responsibility to ensure that our dogs are placed and cared for in a safe and healthy environment. If potential owners are not in a financial position to properly care for a dog, they really shouldn't own one.

With all our dog placements, we require a written contract. Here is a sample addendum that would be contained in a Foster/Adoption Contractual Agreement:

1. The Recipient will register the Dog with the AKC as owners within 30 days. Recipient/s will be responsible for the costs of Registration in the AKC and the UKC, Temperament Testing and OFA tests, and will attempt to title the dog at their expense.
2. The Recipient is knowledgeable about the German Shepherd breed characteristics and traits and will continue to learn about them, and has adequate resources, to provide for the care and maintenance involved in the ownership of this breed and lineage.
3. The Recipient understands and accepts ownership and liability responsibilities, and agrees to care for the above described Dog in a humane, safe and responsible manner.

4. The Recipient agrees to maintain preventative care of the puppy/dog in regards to proper nutrition, proper exercise and mental stimulation, and preventing harm, damage or stress injuries.
5. The Recipient represents that he/she or any member of their household has never been subject to legal action for cruelty to, or neglect of animals and further represents that he/she has never owned an animal which has been confiscated by any animal control or humane organization for violations of state or local animal control regulations or animal adoption agreements.
6. The Recipient agrees that the family members of the household have agreed to the ownership of the Dog and that household members will abide by the terms and spirit of this contract.
7. The Recipient agrees to obey all laws and licensing and rabies requirements for the dog.
8. The Recipient agrees the Dog will be provided with a suitable living environment, fresh water, wholesome and nutritious dog food, adequate outdoor exercise, socialization, affection, shelter, proper cleanliness and grooming.
9. The Recipient agrees to proper health care and to keep vaccinations current including, but not limited to rabies, distemper/parvo (DHLPP), Bordetella, and ensures the Dog receives preventative medication to protect against heartworm and fleas. The Recipient agrees to provide reasonable medical care for the Dog in a timely manner. Any veterinary problems that may arise, including serious illness requiring emergency care or surgery is the Recipient's responsibility and the Recipient is responsible for all related costs.
10. The Recipient will not allow the Dog to roam free and or unsupervised, and understands that restraining a dog by kenneling, chaining or tying it up for long extended periods of time may cause depression, unpredictable behavior and random aggression.
11. The Recipient will enroll the Dog in obedience training classes at their own cost, and are highly encouraged to join in becoming guardians of the breed by participating in local dog club activities, educational programs, a regional German Shepherd Dog club and/or the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.
12. The Recipient understands and agrees that the Seller is entitled to make contact, visits, e-mail or phone calls to ascertain proper care and wellbeing of the Dog, and that the covenants and clauses of this agreement are being satisfied.
13. If at any time in the future the Recipient cannot continue to provide proper care for the Dog, the Recipient will not abandon, give or sell the Dog to a medical research, pound or animal shelter without consent of the Seller, but will return the Dog to the Seller; or by consent of the Seller seek to find a suitable home that honors and fulfills the letter and the spirit of this contract and well-being of the Dog.
14. The Recipient understands and agrees that Seller reserves the right to reclaim the dog with no reimbursement/refund to the Recipient if any of the above conditions are not met. The Recipient's failure to abide by the above conditions voids their rights under this contract.
15. The Recipient will not spay the Dog without the Breeder's consent and will allow the Breeder to breed the dog at the Breeder's expense for 2 successful litters of at least 4 puppies before the age of 5 years of age; then Recipient will have fulfilled their breeding obligations.

It is understood that with a proper living environment, reasonable care, socialization and training on the part of the Recipient, the Dog should mature to acceptable temperament and structure, and genetically embody the German Shepherd Standard as defined by the

German Shepherd Dog Club of America. This Dog is being sold with an **AKC Full Registry** and may be bred without the consent of the Breeder after fulfilling their obligation to the breeder. The dog may be registered jointly only with the AKC and the UKC, and bred under the following conditions unless otherwise agreed to by the Seller:

- When the Dog reaches 2 years old and is found to have no faults of temperament or structure and hips and elbows have passed OFA acceptability paid for by the buyer, and;
- The Recipient agrees to only breed or stud the Dog with a mate that embodies the German Shepherd Standard, and has no disqualifying defects, faults of health, temperament or structure. The Dog is only to be bred with another AKC/UKC purebred German Shepherd dog or recognized Registry, of proven of similar high quality reflective of its lineage, and in consideration of the Breeder's Code of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, and;
- The Recipient and the Seller or his designate may place or sell any offspring of successful litters to whomever responsible owner they choose.

The Breeder is not responsible for the breeding of the Recipient's Dog by the owner after fulfilling this agreement, but has a reputable interest in the progeny of the Dog's continued lineage.

We have placed numerous dogs with individuals and families under this German Shepherd Guardian/Foster/Adoption Program. This gives potential owners who would not otherwise own a quality dog a way to obtain one. It also provides French's German Shepherds a way to continue providing dogs for the Disabled and American Veterans and Persons with Disabilities.